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LETTER DATED 8 SEPTEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURUNDI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following the postponement of the Arusha negotiations on Burundi on 25 August 1997, a summit meeting of the heads of State of the region (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) was held on 3 and 4 September 1997 at Dar es Salaam at the invitation of the Tanzanian President, Mr. Benjamin William Mpaka.

Burundi was not invited to attend this meeting.

On the same day, 4 September 1997, the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations formally submitted to the Security Council the final communiqué of the summit (see S/1997/687) before Burundi had even been informed of it, in accordance with the declaration of the Dar es Salaam summit meeting.

The Government of Burundi wishes to reaffirm once again its total commitment to a peace process in which negotiations are open to all the parties to the conflict.

A response to the Dar es Salaam communiqué reflecting this will be transmitted to the Security Council as soon as the Government is formally notified of the letter and the spirit of the Dar es Salaam summit meeting, as recommended in the joint communiqué of 4 September 1997.

In order to keep the Security Council regularly informed, I have the honour to transmit to you:

1. The statement on the peace process issued by the Government of Burundi on 2 September 1997 and

2. The memorandum by the Government of Burundi concerning the postponement of the political dialogue open to all parties to the conflict in Burundi.

I should be grateful if you would have these documents circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gamaliel NDARUZANIYE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

Statement issued by the Government of Burundi on 2 September 1997

The Government of the Republic of Burundi notes that there have been some recent developments related to the peace process. Having examined the recent developments, the Government would like to communicate the following:

1. The Government reaffirms its total commitment to make peace through negotiations open to all the parties. Such negotiations constitute one of the priorities in its peace programme.

The Government would like to warn the general public about a disinformation campaign aimed at creating the impression that it has withdrawn from negotiations.

2. With regard to the meeting of 25 August 1997, the Government only asked for a postponement to allow for better consultations with a view to giving this process a chance to succeed.

That is why the Government reaffirms its availability for the opening of negotiations on 29 September 1997. That would give enough time for proper consultations among the various partners.

The Government proposes that the opening of negotiations take place in a neutral city in the region, e.g. Addis Ababa (OAU headquarters), Harare, Lusaka, Pretoria, etc.

3. Concerning mediation, the Government notes that there are problems.

That is why the Government requests that the scope of mediation should be broadened so that it might be reassuring to all the parties.

4. The Government has just heard that a summit meeting of heads of State on the question of Burundi will be held in Dar es Salaam on 3 and 4 September 1997.

The Government is surprised that such meetings take place without the participation of representatives of the Government of Burundi.

The heads of State will therefore be deprived of reliable information for a proper assessment of the situation.

The Government would like to point out that, at the summit meeting, Tanzania is going to play the role of judge while taking sides.

5. The Government notes that the present relations between Burundi and Tanzania do not create an environment conducive to peace.

That is why the Government requests that the countries of the subregion initiate a process of mediation between Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania with a view to re-establishing normal relations more conducive to peace between the two countries.

Annex II

Memorandum by the Government of Burundi concerning the postponement of the all-party political dialogue

A. Commitment of the Government of Burundi to seek a political solution to the Burundian crisis through dialogue

1. Convinced that the future of the Burundian nation requires the reconciliation of all its constituent parts, the authorities installed by the change of 25 July 1996 have undertaken to hold a political dialogue open to all parties to the conflict in Burundi, including armed factions. Their intention is to build a national consensus on fundamental issues and to establish institutions to allay the concerns of all citizens.

2. On 25 August 1997, the first session of the inter-Burundian dialogue was scheduled to begin at Arusha within the framework of the Burundi peace process. After assessing the preparations for this dialogue, and in the light of developments in its relations with the United Republic of Tanzania, the Government of Burundi was compelled to seek a postponement of the start of the dialogue.

B. Reasons for the request for postponement

3. From 5 to 7 July 1997, a delegation from the mediator visited Burundi, and the Government relayed its concerns to the mediator. For the dialogue to take place in an atmosphere of calm, the Government had suggested that the necessary conditions should be created by means of the following steps: (1) the easing of sanctions, which had been agreed at the Arusha summit meeting of 16 April 1997, should be fully implemented; (2) the Burundian people should be allowed to engage in political dialogue free from the pressure of economic sanctions; (3) the terrorist organizations which regularly menaced Burundi should be prevented from attacking Burundians from the country in which the negotiations were being conducted; (4) normal diplomatic relations should be restored between Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania; and (5) the necessary pressure should be brought to bear on terrorist organizations so that they would cease their hostilities.

4. The following proposals were put forward in order to render work with the mediator more effective: (1) the mediator should visit Burundi; (2) a delegation should be sent to the United Republic of Tanzania to complete the technical preparations; (3) Burundi must be invited to all meetings relating to the peace process.

5. The following observations can be made concerning the preparations for the political dialogue:

- The Burundian Government was not consulted about practical questions relating to its organization, in particular when the negotiations would start and who the participants would be.

- The Tanzanian delegation responsible for carrying out the preparations with the Burundian team had promised, at the end of its visit in early July 1997, to return in time to complete the consultations and inform the Burundian side of the state of the preparations. The Tanzanian representative of the mediator appointed for that purpose arrived in Burundi only three days before the political dialogue was scheduled to begin.

- After requesting a postponement of one month in order to clarify questions and concerns raised by the Government of Burundi and other partners, the Tanzanian side made no reply of any kind, according to the report by the mediator's representative. Likewise, the technical team sent by the Government of Burundi one week before the 25 August meeting to prepare for the dialogue received no help from the Tanzanian authorities.

6. As to the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the holding of a dialogue, the Government of Burundi notes with regret that recently the Tanzanian authorities and the mediator himself have increasingly made statements and gestures that have only succeeded in creating tension between the two countries and discouraging the participation of certain internal partners in the Arusha meeting. In addition, the Tanzanian side has made an additional issue out of the question of economic sanctions and border security.

7. Armed Burundian refugees regularly attack Burundi from Tanzanian territory. The Tanzanian authorities have in fact set up refugee camps a few kilometres from our common border, in violation of the relevant international regulations. This attitude casts some doubt on the neutrality of the United Republic of Tanzania, making it hard for Burundians to accept mediation conducted by a noted citizen of that country.

C. Observations and proposals by the Government of Burundi

8. The Government believes that, before the first session of the all-party dialogue can be convened, further consultations must be held with those conducting the mediation with a view to eliciting a consensus on the holding of peace talks.

9. The attention of the regional and international community should be drawn here to the danger of guiding the peace process in Burundi by means of ill-advised constraints. External coercive measures coupled with internal constraints will surely pose a major obstacle to the peace process.

10. The Government of Burundi denies harbouring any belligerent intentions against its sister country, the United Republic of Tanzania. At the same time, it calls upon the Tanzanian side, in keeping with the relevant Geneva Convention, to discourage the armed refugees who are using its territory to massacre innocent Burundians. In addition, the United Republic of Tanzania, which has driven Burundian diplomats from their mission in Dar es Salaam in favour of the rebel leaders, should settle this question in strict compliance with the Vienna Convention.

11. The Government of Burundi appeals to the regional and international community to help create an atmosphere of calm that will be as favourable as possible to the inter-Burundian peace talks.

12. In the light of the incomprehension and doubt expressed by certain partners regarding the neutrality of the mediators and the country hosting the peace talks, the Government of Burundi requests its partners, particularly those in the subregion, to:

- Ensure that the mediation effort is more neutral;

- Identify a neutral venue outside the United Republic of Tanzania for the peace talks, preferably within the subregion;

- Hold the first session of the inter-Burundian dialogue before the end of September 1997.

13. The Government reaffirms its total commitment to the inter-Burundian dialogue for peace and reiterates its appeal to the regional and international community to help it create an atmosphere conducive to that dialogue. Notwithstanding these temporary difficulties, nothing will stop Burundi along the road to peace and reconstruction which it has taken of its own sovereign will.

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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 8 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 September 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 8 September 1997 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 27 August 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/51/969-S/1997/673 of 29 August 1997).

I would like to recall that previous similar allegations regarding so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 1 August 1997 (A/51/959-S/1997/612 dated 4 August 1997). Since the present Greek Cypriot charges are no different or more credible than the ones previously made, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate, however, that flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in the south has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The aim of the Greek Cypriot administration in making these allegations is, as repeatedly pointed out before, to uphold the myth that it has sovereignty over the whole island and to provide a smokescreen for its reckless policy of escalation and tension on the island. In this context, I would like to draw attention to the fact that, within the framework of the so-called "joint defence doctrine", the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece are planning to stage joint military manoeuvres in and around South Cyprus next month. The provocative exercises code-named "Nikiforos-97", which are to be carried out in conjunction with the large-scale exercises of the Greek armed forces code-named "Toxotis-97", will reportedly involve, apart from the Greek Cypriot National Guard, the participation of Greek warships and a squadron of Greek warplanes (Greek Cypriot daily Simerini of 1 September 1997). It has been reported also in the Greek Cypriot press that the Greek Defence Minister Mr. Cohachopoulos and high-ranking officers of the Greek Armed Forces will be present in South Cyprus during the joint military manoeuvres and that the participating Greek military aircraft will fire at mock targets using live ammunition [illegible] land at the newly constructed Paphos airbase in south Cyprus. The creation of a warlike atmosphere under the guise of staging military exercises of an offensive nature will only serve to exacerbate the situation on the island as tension is already very high due to the Greek Cypriot side's decision to deploy the sophisticated S-300 missile system.

I trust that third parties who wish to contribute to the efforts for the finding of a peaceful solution to the Cyprus question, will see to it that the Greek Cypriot side abandons this policy of escalation and tension, which threatens the peace and stability in our region, and takes the necessary steps in the direction of establishing trust and confidence in the island.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 8 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 9 May 1997 (A/51/895-S/1997/364) I have the honour to bring to your attention new and serious actions carried out by the illegal regime in the areas of the Republic of Cyprus occupied by Turkey.

In my above-mentioned letter I informed of the announced intention of the illegal secessionist entity, set up in the occupied area of Cyprus, to put up for sale properties, including the "Salamis Bay Hotel" in Famagusta, which was illegally usurped from its rightful owner following the Turkish invasion and occupation of a large part of Cyprus in 1974.

According to the Turkish-Cypriot newspaper Halkin Sesi of 26 August 1997 following a decision of the so-called Council of Ministers of the illegal entity, the "Salamis Bay Hotel" in the occupied area of Famagusta, has been leased to "Istanbul Airlines", a Turkish company, for a period of 49 years. The lease agreement involves a US$ 613,000 yearly payment plus 10 per cent of the net profits.

As I have indicated on previous occasions, such properties belong to their legal owners and thus their transfer to others is illegal and in violation of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions on Cyprus.

Also most relevant is the recent judgement of the European Court of Human Rights, delivered on 18 December 1996, in the case of Loizidou vs. Turkey concerning Greek-Cypriot owned immovable property in the occupied area of Cyprus. In its binding decision, the Court concluded that the applicant remained the legal owner of her property in the occupied area and that Turkey

was in violation of the European Human Rights Convention by preventing her from returning to and enjoying her property in Kyrenia.

These actions by Turkey, which are aimed at consolidating the fait accompli created through the use of military force, are in violation of the principles and norms of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as relevant United Nations resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly these illegal Turkish actions and to request the immediate intervention of the United Nations to prevent them from taking place.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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LETTER DATED 8 SEPTEMBER 1997 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following instances of violations by Iraq of the terms of the ceasefire between the two countries.

1. On 19 January 1997, at 1500 hours, three Iraqi soldiers, stationed around the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 on the map of Khosravi, north of border pillar 53/2 in no man's land, while observing the area mounted a machine-gun on the roof of the Mandaria sentry post.

2. On 26 January 1997, at 1300 hours, an Iraqi mechanical shovel was observed excavating at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5100036000 on the map of Sumar, west of border pillar 40/4.

3. On 29 January 1997, five Iraqi soldiers entered the area around the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5710038600 on the map of Sumar, west of border pillar 40/4, and stationed themselves there.

4. On 30 January 1997, three senior Iraqi officers visited the Mandaria sentry post at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 on the map of Khosravi, north of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land.

5. On 30 January 1997, five Iraqi vehicles, carrying 10 soldiers and a number of Iraqi tribesmen, entered the area at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 6160025600 and 38S NC 6800021000 on the map of Kani Sheikh, south of the Ghalalem sentry post and border pillar 39/1, and stationed themselves there.

6. On 31 January 1997, at 1450 hours, an unidentified aircraft was observed flying, from the north-west to the south, over the Hoor al-Hovaiza area.

7. On 1 February 1997, at 0100 hours, the guards from the Dirifarm coastal sentry post of Khorramshahr observed a diver in the marshlands adjacent to the dock. As a result of the reaction of the guards, the diver retreated.

8. On 1 February 1997, at 1300 and 1430 hours, Iraqi troops based across from the floating dock in Khosro-Abad, around the geographical coordinates of 39R TP 4000051000 on the map of Abadan, twice set fire in the marshlands and palm-groves in their own territory.

9. On 1 February 1997, at 2045 hours, four Iraqi boats were observed moving around the geographical coordinates of 38R QV 5500053000 on the map west of Jofeir-2, south of border pillar 14/A5, in no man's land.

10. On 3 February 1997, at 1200 hours, three Iraqi soldiers with two head of cattle were observed around south Naft-Shahr, between border pillars 44/8 and 44/9. They left the area after an hour.

11. On 3 February 1997, at 1550 hours, the guards from the Dirifarm coastal sentry post observed an Iraqi patrol consisting of three soldiers at a distance of 800 metres from the post. As a result of the reaction of the guards, the Iraqi soldiers retreated to the marshlands.

12. On 4 February 1997, at 0230 hours, three Iraqi soldiers were twice observed to the west and also the east of the Hodood border post in the Khorramshahr area. As a result of the reaction of the guards, the Iraqi soldiers fled back.

13. On 5 February 1997, at 1630 hours, a number of armed Iraqi smugglers were intercepted by the Iranian border guards at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 6960025600 on the map of Ghalama, east of border pillar 60/3. As a result of the exchange of gunfire which ensued, they fled back into Iraqi territory, leaving behind one Kalashnikov.

14. On 6 February 1997, at 0400 hours, three unmarked boats, each carrying three individuals, approached the Iranian sentry post located south of Hoor al-Hovaiza and were intercepted by the Iranian border guards. Following the reaction of Iranian forces, the boats fled back.

15. On 7 February 1997, an Iraqi helicopter was observed patrolling north of the Khaneghein area and over the Khosravi heights on the other side of the border.

16. On 9 February 1997, at 0800 hours, Iraqi troops were observed levelling the area south of the Iraqi Mandaria post at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 4200004000 on the map of Khosravi, south of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land.

17. On 9 February 1997, at 0115 hours, a number of Iraqi smugglers intending to enter Iranian territory were intercepted by the Iranian border guards at a distance of about 500 metres from the Iranian Shaheed Assadpour sentry post and subsequently fled back into Iraqi territory.

18. On 9 February 1997, at 1130 hours, three Iraqi vehicles, two of them minibuses, carrying 14 individuals were observed moving at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 4500099500 on the map of Khosravi, south-west of border pillar 51-52 in no man's land.

19. On 9 February 1997, at 1530 hours, three individuals wearing military clothing fired in the direction of the Iranian border guards at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 6650029700 on the map of Ghasr-e-Shirin, north and south of border pillars 66/5 and 66/6. Faced with the response of the Iranian guards, they fled back into Iraqi territory.

20. On 9 February 1997, 1645 hours, five Iraqi soldiers were seen constructing embankments at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 5300096000 on the map of Kharatha, west of border pillar 47, in no man's land.

21. On 9 February 1997, at 1800 hours, 30 Iraqi personnel began erecting three tents at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 3680099400, on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillars 51 and 52.

22. On 10 February 1997, at 0950 hours, four senior Iraqi officers visited the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 53/2 in no man's land. They left the area at 1200 hours on the same day.

23. On 10 February 1997, at 0950 hours, an Iraqi trailer carrying one loader was observed moving across from Ghasr-e-Shirin.

24. On 12 February 1997, at 2000 and 2040 hours, the sound of three mortar rounds was heard and two illuminators were seen around the geographical coordinates of 38R QV 5600073000 and 38R QV 5500073000 on the map south of Hoor al-Hovaiza, south-west and east of border pillar 14B.

25. On 12 February 1997, at 1040 hours, the sound of an extensive explosion around the geographical coordinates of 39R TQ 1550003000 on the map of Nim-Eistgah-Navad, north of border pillar 7/14, in no man's land was heard.

26. On 12 February 1997, at 0950 hours, five Iraqi vehicles, including one minibus carrying 23 individuals, were observed moving at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 4500099000 on the map of Khosravi, south of border pillars 51 and 52, in no man's land.

27. On 13 February 1997, Iraqi personnel began setting up a four-person tent at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 5269996200 on the map of Kharatha, in no man's land south and north of border pillars 47 and 48, across from the Amina central post. The camouflaged tent was set 100 metres away from the border pillar and served as a base for photographing Iranian helicopters.

28. On 13 February 1997, at 1200 hours, five Iraqi motor boats approached the sunken vessels at the geographical coordinates of 39R TP 3700059000 on the map of Abadan, in the Arvand Rud. After having dropped the individuals aboard, the boats left the area.

29. On 14 February 1997, at 0915 hours, an Iraqi helicopter was observed flying deep in the Hoor al-Hovaiza area on the other side of the border.

30. On 15 February 1997, six Iraqi personnel began setting up a tent at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 4300082000 on the map of Naft-Shahr.

31. On 15 February 1997, 25 to 30 Iraqi personnel were observed training at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 3900012000 on the map of Khosravi, between border pillars 56 and 56/1, across from Darband-Joogh in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

32. On 16 February 1997, at 0800 hours, one grader, one IFA vehicle and a number of Iraqi troops were observed levelling the area south of the Iraqi Mandaria post at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 4200004000 on the map of Khosravi, south of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land.

33. On 16 February 1997, Iraqi personnel fired bullets and illuminators in the Hoor al-Hovaiza area.

34. On 16 February 1997, an unidentified aircraft was heard flying over the Faw area, on the other side of the border.

35. On 15 February 1997, four Iraqi troops aboard two boats were observed in the Hoor al-Hovaiza area, across from Ghamar-Banihashem base.

36. On 16 February 1997, four Iraqi boats, having infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intended to approach the Iranian border guard at the geographical coordinates of 38R QV 5700059000 on the map west of Jofeir-2, north of border pillar 14/A5. Faced with the response of the Iranian forces, the boats fled away.

37. On 16 February 1997, Iraqi forces stationed at the Sadr-Arafat sentry post, at the geographical coordinates of 38S NB 9700065000 on the map of Mehran between border pillars 30/1 and 31, were reinforced.

38. On 17 February 1997, at 1030 hours, 10 Iraqi personnel removed a tent at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 3750001600 on the map of Khosravi, north-west of border pillar 53. Thereafter, they began setting up two tents at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 6100023000 on the map of Kani-Sheikh.

39. On 17 February 1997, at 1550 hours, an Iraqi vessel, manned with six individuals, were observed moving towards Khorramshahr from the Iraqi border.

40. On 17 February 1997, from 1630 to 1650 hours, an Iraqi helicopter was observed flying over and patrolling the Doraji, Mohammad Ghassem and Zorbatia sentry posts of Iraq.

41. On 17 February 1997, at 1940 hours, Iranian border guards cam under fire by Iraqi troops with light arms at the geographical coordinates of 38R QV 5500044000 on the map of Jofeir-2, north of border pillar 14/A3, in no man's land.

42. On 17 February 1997, a number of Iraqi vehicles, each carrying between three and eight individuals, were observed moving on the roads of Naft-Shahr, Khosravi and Sumar.

43. On 17 February 1997, a number of Iraqi workers were observed repairing and constructing the road around the Iraqi Mandaria sentry post at the geographical

coordinates of 38S ND 4300004000 on the map of Khosravi, across from the Iranian Velayat-Gashteh sentry post, between border pillars 53 and 53/1 in no man's land.

44. On 18 February 1997, at 1800 hours, Iraqi troops installed a Grinov machine-gun on the roof of the Mandaria sentry post at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 4200005000 on the map of Khosravi, north of border pillar 53/2, in no man's land. Three soldiers constituting the crew of the machine-guns are always present at the observation tower.

45. On 18 February 1997, five Iraqi vehicles - one of them equipped with a machine-gun - carrying 20 to 30 individuals, were observed moving from the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 6200025000 on the map of Ghasr-e-Shirin, north of Majid-Ghadir-Agha, to the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 5300025000 on the map of Ghasr-e-Shirin, north of the Piroz-Khan sentry post.

46. On 18 February 1997, 10 Iraqi soldiers using a crane and a trailer moved one container from the Halvan three-way intersection at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 3800001000 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillars 53 and 53/1, to Khaneghein.

47. On 18 February 1997, an Iraqi helicopter was observed flying in the Velayat-Gashteh area of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 3900003000 on the map of Khosravi, west of border pillar 53/1.

48. On 19 February 1997, at 1320 hours, an Iraqi patrol unit consisting of four soldiers left the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 4770054400 on the map of Sumar, north-west of border pillar 44/7, in no man's land. After two hours of patrolling at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 4460050400 on the map of Naft-Shahr, south of border pillar 44/10, the Iraqi personnel returned to their earlier position.

49. On 19 February 1997, at 1530 hours, two unidentified aircraft were observed flying from east to west at the geographical coordinates of 38R QV 5400072000 on the map south of Hoor al-Hovaiza and border pillar 14B.

50. On 19 February 1997, Iraqi troops began building one embankment 1,500 metres long as well as six hills, at a distance of between 200 and 500 metres from Arvand Rud, across from Khorso-Abad in the Abadan area.

51. On 22 February 1997, at 0740 hours, an Iraqi military loader along with three Iraqi Kurds were observed dismantling strongholds and collecting scraps in no man's land across from Ghasr-e-Shirin.

52. On 22 February 1997, at 1240 hours, an Iraqi grader was observed operating in no man's land across from the Khorramshahr border.

53. On 25 February 1997, at 0120 hours, a loud explosion was heard from inside Iraqi territory around the geographical coordinates of 39R TQ 1500002000 on the map of Nim-Eistgah-Navad, north of border pillars 7/13 and 7/14 in no man's land.

54. On 25 February 1997, at 0915 hours, an Iraqi IFA vehicle carrying 15 individuals left Mandali for the Sumar region. It dropped six individuals at the geographical coordinates of 38S NC 5400039000 on the map of Sumar, west of border pillar 40/5, and left the area after a while.

55. On 27 February 1997, at 1200 hours, an Iraqi jeep carrying six individuals was observed moving at the geographical coordinates of 38S ND 6100024000 on the map of Ghasr-e-Shirin, north of Berar-Aziz in no man's land. At the same time, 12 explosions were heard in the area.

56. On 27 February 1997, at 1900 hours, an Iraqi helicopter landed across from Hamrein heights (the Anbar River region), inside Iraqi territory. It left the area after a while.

57. On 27 February 1997, around 20 Iraqi troops were observed moving and patrolling around the geographical coordinates of 39R QA 8000340000, 38R QA 6300028000 and 38R TQ 1400012000 on the map north of Hoor al-Hovaiza, west of border pillars 18/3 and 7/20 and south and south-west of border pillars 21/1, 21/2 and 21/3.

58. On 28 February 1997, eight Iraqi vehicles were observed moving on the roads surrounding Naft-Shahr.

It would be highly appreciated if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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LETTER DATED 8 SEPTEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to our successive letters to the Security Council concerning Eritrean aggressions against Sudanese territory, I would like to refer in particular to the contents of a letter from the regime of Eritrea, which is governed by the Popular Front. This letter is contained in document S/1997/635. I have the honour to inform you of the following:

(1) The Eritrean regime, which claimed that the Government of the Sudan violated its territory, is quite aware that it was its own troops that violated Sudanese territory last April. Eritrean troops invaded the eastern region of the country and occupied the area of Karora. It is the same area which the above-mentioned Eritrean document alleges was bombed by the Sudan using cluster bombs. The Eritrean regime not only occupied this area, but its forces occupied the area from Karora to Marafit in the north and up to Aquiqu on the coast, thus penetrating 112 kilometres inside Sudanese territory. The Eritrean regime, in its invasion of the Sudanese territory, used a whole infantry brigade. Its forces were concentrated in the areas of Rabasem, Kotaneb, and Tokar in Kassala state (45 kilometres inside Sudanese territory). The Sudan transmitted the details of this aggression to the Security Council at the time in a letter from the Sudanese Minister for Foreign Affairs (S/1997/271).

(2) Regarding what the Eritrean regime has stated about the violation of Eritrean airspace by Sudanese military aircraft, we should like to inform you that Germaika, which is mentioned in the Eritrean letter, is located exactly on the border between the two countries. From there, it is possible to observe Sudanese aircraft flying inside Sudanese airspace without violating the borders. Contrary to what the letter of the Eritrean regime states, it was Sudanese aircraft that were subjected to aggression and fire while flying inside Sudanese territory. We recall the shooting down of a Sudanese helicopter by Eritrean forces in the Sudanese town of Hamashkoraib, located on the Sudan-Eritrea border, which resulted in the death of the crew of the aircraft. This unfortunate incident, an account of which was transmitted to the esteemed

Council at the time (S/1997/2), represents concrete, tangible proof of the flagrant Eritrean aggression against the Sudan.

(3) Regarding also what the Eritrean regime has stated in the above-mentioned letter about cluster bombing, we should like to inform you that the Sudan does not even possess such a weapon. On the other hand, the records of the date specified in the Eritrean letter, that is, 24 July 1997, show that Sudanese forces did not carry out any flight mission that day. They did not even carry out routine logistical flights, not to mention military operations - which did not take place during all the last period.

(4) The aggressor Eritrean troops continue to carry out numerous military and hostile activities inside Sudanese territory. These include the following:

(a) Military field reconnaissance through continuous patrolling to target Sudanese military posts in the vicinity;

(b) Continuous activity and marine reconnaissance in the Port of Aquiqu;

(c) Utilization of the areas south of Toker for military and naval training, where 24-hour combat training takes place, including live ammunition exercises;

(d) Deployment of advanced shore artillery in Aquiqu to target Sudanese vessels;

(e) Continuous transport by convoys from inside the Eritrean territory of rations and military provisions for the troops;

(f) Establishment of military bases provided with the necessary forces so as to expand the military operation during the next stage;

(g) Placing of landmines indiscriminately in roads, which has resulted in huge losses in transport facilities and in the lives of innocent civilians.

(5) The flagrant hostility of the Eritrean regime towards the Sudan and its failure to deny its threats and its use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of the Sudan, in addition to its declared position against the people and the Government of the Sudan, explain the Eritrean regime's attempts to incite the international community against the Sudan. We have informed the Council before that the so-called Eritrean complaints against the Sudan are but a propaganda campaign carefully timed to support the plans of military aggression of the Eritrean regime against Sudanese territory.

(6) The Sudan has been keen to expose the intentions of the Eritrean regime. Moreover, the Sudan has adopted a policy of self-restraint so that peace, security and stability will prevail, particularly in the region and throughout Africa in general. The Government of the Sudan affirms once more its

wholehearted desire to maintain good relations with all States by respecting their sovereignty and refraining from interfering in their internal affairs. The Sudan thus expresses its dissatisfaction with and condemnation of the incessant series of aggressive acts directed against it by the Eritrean regime. The aim of these acts of aggression is to undermine the security and integrity of the Sudanese people in the first place. The Sudan reiterates that these hostile actions are incompatible with the international standards that should govern relations between States.

The Government of the Sudan, in submitting this information to the esteemed Council, calls upon the members of the Council to shoulder their responsibilities in deterring the repeated Eritrean acts of aggression against the Sudan and its people.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih M. ERWA
Permanent Representative

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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 9 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in August 1997.

2 August 1997

At 1045 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba' and Arabsalim, the Kafr Fila - Jba' wadi, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Zahrani River in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by intensive low-altitude overflights of the area by Israeli warplanes.

At 1230 hours outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm and Zibqin, Tyre district, came under Israeli artillery fire.

3 August 1997

At 2200 hours Israeli helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude and were met with ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

4 August 1997

At 0130 hours Israeli helicopters tried to set down an Israeli force in Wadi al-Kafur. Clashes in which weapons of all types were used took place between the Israeli force and men of the Lebanese national resistance, and they stopped at 0400 hours. The force withdrew, leaving behind an explosive charge

that was detonated at 0530 hours, killing five persons. The overflights of the Nabatiyah area by Israeli helicopters continued until the clashes ended.

5 August 1997

At 1025 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Western Bekaa area, and at 1030 hours they attacked outlying areas of Libbaya and Yuhmur and the Shahba' hill. Areas along the Litani River also came under Israeli artillery fire. The shelling and the overflights stopped at 1200 hours. In the attacks, two persons were killed and four were wounded.

At 1845 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar, the Kafr Fila - Jba' wadi and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

An explosive charge exploded on the Kafr Hunah road as Ziyad Ahmad Jahjah was passing in his car. He was killed.

7 August 1997

At 0730 hours the town of Jun, Shuf district, came under artillery fire from Lahad militia positions and one person was wounded.

At 0745 hours Jba', Kafr Fila and Kafr Tibnit came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0800 hours Kafr Milki and its outlying areas came under Israeli artillery fire.

8 August 1997

At 1330 hours outlying areas of Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1500 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

At 1825 hours the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks and its environs in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under heavy sniper fire from Israeli forces.

At 1900 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Na'imah hills south of Beirut.

At 2145 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Bra'shit and Ayta al-Jabal came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1400 hours an Israeli artillery shell fell on the bridge leading to Ayn al-Tinah in the Western Bekaa. A fire broke out that consumed some 3,000 square metres of olive and fig trees.

9 August 1997

At 2115 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Janta in Ba'labakk district.

10 August 1997

At 1600 hours outlying areas of Jba' and Ayn Bu Siwar came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by helicopters, which directed machine-gun fire at the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills. They were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1415 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Ba'labakk and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

At 2350 hours Israeli combat helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area and were met with ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

11 August 1997

Between 1000 and 1430 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

12 August 1997

At 1030 hours Israeli warplanes made intensive overflights of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, carrying out a number of mock attacks.

At 1715 hours Bra'shit and outlying areas of Tibnin, Safad al-Battikh and Shaqra came under Israeli artillery fire, and some 15 shells of various calibre fell in the area.

At 1430 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitude.

13 August 1997

At 1020 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, carrying out a number of mock attacks.

14 August 1997

At 0930 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Nabatiyah at high altitude.

At 1245 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Ayta al-Jabal, Haris and Haddatha in Bint Jubayl district came under Israeli artillery fire, with some 30 shells of various calibre falling in the area.

At 1330 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Arabsalim and Ayn Bu Siwar in Nabatiyah district came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by Israeli warplanes.

At 1600 hours security agents of the Lahad militia expelled the family of Muhammad al-Gharmati from the border-strip area by way of the Kafr Tibnit crossing.

15 August 1997

At 1030 hours outlying areas of Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1050 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haris and Haddatha in Bint Jubayl district came under Israeli artillery fire.

16 August 1997

At 1820 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Luwayzah and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Na'imah hill and fired two rockets. A second attack followed at 2010 hours.

17 August 1997

At 1330 hours Mazra'at al-Hamra, outlying areas of Zawtar al-Sharqiyuah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and areas along the Litani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

18 August 1997

At 0530 hours the abandoned Army barracks and its environs in Nabatiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1115 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitude.

At 1215 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Sa'diyat, Damur and Na'imah areas.

At 1230 hours an explosive charge was detonated on the Jazzin - Kafr Hunah - Marj Uyun road at the northern approach to Kafr Hunah. It had been planted on the left shoulder of the road, and the explosion killed two children, Jan As'ad Nasr and his sister.

At 1315 hours outlying areas of Jba' and Ayn Bu Siwar and the Jba' - Kafr Fila wadi came under Israeli artillery bombardment from the occupied border strip.

At 1320 hours Kafr Milki came under Israeli artillery bombardment, and at 1600 hours the shelling was extended to include outlying areas of Anqun.

At 1400 hours the town of Jun and its environs in Shuf district came under artillery fire from Lahad militia forces.

At 1415 hours Sidon came under Israeli artillery fire. It stopped at 1530 hours after some seven artillery shells had fallen. Seven persons were killed and 30 were wounded.

At 1610 hours Jazzin came under artillery fire from a point south-west of the town. One person was killed and two were wounded in the shelling.

19 August 1997

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, Tulin, Shaqra, Bra'shit and Sawwanah came under Israeli bombardment.

At 0745 hours outlying areas of Zibqin, Siddiqin and Jibal al-Butm came under Israeli artillery fire. From fear of the spread of shelling, 25 to 80 per cent of the civilian populations of Mansuri, Izziyah, Majdal Zun, Qulaylah, Hinniyah, Zibqin, Siddiqin, Jibal al-Butm, Qana and Buyut al-Siyad fled towards Tyre and its environs.

At 2100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Tyre at medium altitude.

At 2145 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Nabtiyah at low altitude.

At 2130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at low altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army. This continued until 2150 hours.

At 2350 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at low altitude.

20 August 1997

At 1015 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Janta, wounding 30 people.

At 1100 hours Israeli warplanes fired two rocket projectiles in the Tuffahta wadi, Jazirah locality, in Sidon district.

At 1130 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Zarut hill in Barja, Shuf district.

21 August 1997

At 1200 hours outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm, Zibqin and Siddiqin came under artillery fire. The shelling of outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm and Zibqin was renewed at 1800 hours.

Between 1210 and 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas.

At 1230 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Barja and Jiyah at low altitude.

At 1240 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps.

At 1430 hours the Jabbur pool and Abu Rashid came under Israeli artillery fire that continued until 1630 hours.

At 1842 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haddatha and Haris came under Israeli artillery fire.

22 August 1997

At 1000 hours Israeli forces expelled a family of six persons from the border strip by way of the Kafr Tibnit crossing.

At 1030 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude carrying out mock attacks.

At 1900 hours a number of Israeli artillery shells fell in outlying areas of Majdal Zun in Tyre district.

23 August 1997

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm, Zibqin and Siddiqin came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1000 hours outlying areas of Majdal Zun came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Yatar, Kafra, Haris and Haddatha came under Israeli artillery fire. Then, at 0930 hours, Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Kafra and Yatar.

At 0905 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm, while the artillery bombardment of outlying areas of Zibqin, Siddiqin and Jibal al-Butm continued.

25 August 1997

At 0615 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the environs of the abandoned Army barracks in Nabatiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1345 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Maydun and Ayn al-Tinah area in Western Bekaa district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army. The overflights of the area in question continued until 1530 hours.

At 1345 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitude and made intensive overflights of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area. They were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire, and they carried out a number of mock attacks.

At 1435 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at low altitude.

26 August 1997

At 1320 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Tyre and the nearby camps at medium altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

At 1100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at high altitude.

27 August 1997

At 1100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude.

At 1330 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude.

At 1445 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

28 August 1997

At 0900 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at medium altitude.

At 1030 hours outlying areas of Frun, Ghanduriyah, Sawwanah, Qabrikha, Majdal Silm and Tulin came under artillery bombardment.

At 1300 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Frun, Ghanduriyah, Sawwanah, Qabrikha, Majdal Silm and Tulin and then strafed the wadis with heavy-weapons fire.

At 1335 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Ayn Bu Siwar. The attack targeted an unoccupied three-storey building.

At 1515 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas.

At 0600 hours outlying areas of Yuhmur and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Mazra'at al-Hamra came under Israeli artillery fire.

30 August 1997

At 2205 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Na'imah hills and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 2200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Nabatiyah at high altitude.

At 2245 hours the vicinity of the abandoned Army barracks in Nabatiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and these fresh attacks and arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese population, which have left a number of casualties and have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes

and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative